1129. h. 7. 7*.

The *Good Old Cause* rightly stated, and the *False* un-cased.

By *William Prynne* Esq; a Bencher of *Lincolns-Inne.*

WHen the (a) wilely *Gibeonites* attempted to circumvent *Josuah* and the *Israelites*, and draw them into a *League with them*, against (b) *Gods expresse inhibition*, they accomplished their design with this Stratageme, *by carrying along with them, old Sacks, old rent Wine-bottles, old Shoes and Garments, and old dry mouldy bread and provisions to the Israelites Camp at* Gilgal; which they alleged *were all new on the day they came forth from their Country, but were all becom old by reason of their very far journy, which they believing, without examination, were insnared by them.*

This policy hath for many years past been pursued by *Jesuites* and other *Gibeonites* of *Rome*, to circumvent over-*credulous Protestants* to enter into a *holy League* with them to the shipwrack of their *Faith* and *Souls*, by crying up their (d) *new Superstitions, Relique, Errors*, for the *only old Religion*, and decrying the *antient Protestant Religion* as a late *Novelty* first broached by *Luther* and *Calvin*. Whether this be not the present stratageme of some of their *Instruments*, or *Fraternity*, to engage the *Souldiers* to joyn in a new confederacy with them, to bring our old Religion, Government, Parliaments, Laws, Liberties, to speedy *desolation*, & irrecoverable destruction, under the disguise of **maintaining the good* old Cause**, is not unworthy their *strictest inquisition*, & most *serious consideration*, which will be evidently demonstrated to them by discovering the only *true original Good Old Cause*, Grounds, Ends, drawing the Houses of Parliament to raise and continue the *Armies* under their successive *Generals*; most clearly, fully, and truly expressed in their own *Votes, Orders, Ordinances, Declarations* year after year, printed at large in two distinct *Volums* for *Edward Husbands* 1643. and 1646. *by order of the Commons assembled in Parliament*; which being almost quite forgotten, it will be both seasonable and necessary to refresh the memories, and awaken the stupid, if not seared Consciences of the Nation, with a recital of the chiefest of them, to countermine the *new* plots of all seducing *Gibeonites*.

a Iosh. 9. 3, &c.
b Exod. 23. 31, 32. c. 34. 12. Deut. 7. 2, 3.
c Peter Mousnier his Nouveaute du Papisme oppose à antiquité du Vray Christianisme. Sedan 1627. Bishop Ushers answer to the Iesuites challenge.
d The Author of the Protestant Religion. London. 1621. Kellisons survey of the New Religion. Doway 1603.
* If they mean by this Good Old Cause, their New-Commonwealth, it was begotten but in March, 1648. had presently unknown Guardians and Governors set over it till 1653 then a new Protector, under whose wardship it still continues as an Infant, but often years birth, and if he be removed, it must be in ward to the Army Officers till its full age. How then can they call it Old, or the Good Old Man or Cause, without a contradiction and absurdity?

(e) Exact Collect. P. 34,35, 36,&c. 59,60, 61,66,67,&c.

The first *Original* of the unhappy breach between the late *King* and our long *Parliament*, was (e) *his comming personally into the Commons House to demand the five Members*, 4 *January* 1641. whom the day before he had *impeached of High Treason, and sent a Sergeant at Arms to apprehend*: This breach of *Privilege* induced the Houses to require the power of the *Militia to be at their disposal*, for the safeguard of their *Persons* and *Privileges*: which being denyed by the King, who condescended to it very far, but not in that latitude as demanded; soon after the King departing from the Parliament, and setting on foot the *Commission of Array* for his defence against the Parliament, and the Parliament raising the *Militia* for their safeguard against the King, this first engaged them by degrees into a *civil bloody war* against each other, ending in their mutual destruction by the very *new Militia* they contested for, as their only security against each other.

The sole **Cause**, Grounds, Ends of the Parliaments raysing the *Militia*, and after that an Army, are thus fully declared by the *Lords* and *Commons*, in their *Propositions* for bringing in *Plate and Mony, Horse, Horse-men, and Arms for the defence of the King and both Houses of Parliament*, printed and published by order of the *Lords* and *Commons*, 10 *Junii* 1642.

(f) Exact Collection, p. 339, 340, 342.

Wherein it appears the King (seduced by wicked Counsel) intends to make war against his Parl. *and in pursuance thereof, under pretence of raysing a Guard for his person, hath actually begun to levy forces both horse and foot, &c. so as the orders of Parliament, which is the highest Court of Justice in this Realm, are not obeyed, and the authority thereof is altogether scorned and vilified, and such persons as stand well-affected to it, and declare themselves sensible of these publike calamities, and of the violations of the privileges of Parliament, and common liberty of the Subjects, are baffled and injured by several sorts of malignant men who are about the King; some whereof, under the name of* * *Cavaliers, without having respect to the Laws of the Land, or any fear either of God, or man, are ready to commit all manner of outrage and violence, which must needs tend to the dissolution of this Government, the destroying of our Religion, Laws, Liberty, and property; all which must be exposed to the malice and violence of such desperate persons* **as must be employed in so horrid and unnatural an act, as the overthrowing of a Parliament by force, which is the support and preservation of them.** All which *being duly considered by the Lords and Commons, & how great an obligation lies upon*

* The true description of a Cavalier: which some who most condemned them, have now actually drawn upon themselves in overthrowing the parliament by force.

upon them, in honor, conſcience, and duty, according to the high truſt repoſed in them, to uſe all poſſible means in ſuch caſe, for the timely prevention of ſo great and irrecoverable evils; they have thought fit to publiſh their ſenſe and apprehenſion of this imminent danger, thereby to excite all well-affected perſons to diſtribute their beſt aſſiſtance, according to their Solemn Vow and Proteſtation, to the preparations neceſſary for the oppoſing and ſuppreſſing of the **trayterous Attempts** *of thoſe wicked and malignant Counſellors who ſeek to engage the King in ſo wicked and deſtructive an Enterpriſe,* **and to deſtroy the Priviledges and Being of Parliaments.**

1. *They the ſaid Lords and Commons do declare,* That whoſoever ſhall bring in any proportion of Money or Plate, or ſhall underwrite to furniſh or maintain any number of Horſe, Horſemen, or Arms, for the preſervation of the publick peace, and for the defence of the **King, and both Houſes of Parliament from force and Violence, and to uphold the Power and Priviledges of Parliament**, according to his Proteſtation: it ſhall be held a good and acceptable Service to the Common-wealth, and Teſtimony of his good affection to the Proteſtant Religion, the Laws, Liberties and Peace of this kingdom, and **to the Parliament and priviledges thereof.**

And laſtly it is declared, That whatſoever is brought in ſhall not at all be imployed upon **any other occaſion,** than to the purpoſes aforeſaid, *which are*; To maintain the Proteſtant Religion, the Kings authority, and his perſon in his Royal Dignity, the free courſe of Juſtice, **the Laws of the Land, the Peace of the Kingdom, and the Priviledges of Parliament, againſt any force that ſhall oppoſe them**: And this by direction of **Both Houſes of Parliament.**

Here you have the *Good Old Cauſe* truly, clearly and fully ſtated by both Houſes of Parliament in every particular branch thereof, when they firſt ingaged themſelves, all the well-affected people of the Kingdom, and Army in it, as they publiſhed to all the world in theſe their Propoſitions. Which how diametrically contrary it is in every branch to the miſtaken *Good Old Cauſe*, now cried up and proſecuted with an high hand, & to the late practiſes, proceedings, counſels, papers, deſigns of thoſe, who were firſt raiſed, commiſſioned by the Parliament for its juſt defence, yet are at laſt degenerated into the greateſt Apoſtates from, and violenteſt enemies againſt it;

their own consciences can best resolve, and the blindest eyes most clearly discern,

These *Propositions* were seconded with a (g) *Declaration* of the Lords and Commons to the same effect, printed and published by their *Order*, 5 *Iulii* 1642, in pursuance whereof *July* 12. the Commons House passed and published these Votes: *Resolved upon the Question*, That an *Army* shall be forthwith raised, for the safety of the Kings Person, **the Defence of both Houses of Parliament**, *and of those who have obeyed their Orders and commands, and preserving of the true Religion, the Laws, Liberty and Peace of the Kingdom: That the Earl of* Essex *shall be the General: That in* **this Cause**, *for the Safety of the Kings person, defence of both Houses of Parliament, and of those who have obeyed their Orders and commands, and preserving of true Religion, the Laws, Liberty and Peace of the Kingdom, they will live and die with the Earl of* Essex, *whom they have nominated General in* **this Cause**: *That a Petition should be framed, to move his Majesty to a good accord with his Parliament, to prevent a civil War.* Which Petition and Votes were presented to the *Lords*; who returned Answer; *They did concur with the House of Commons, in omnibus.*

g Exact Collection, p. 456, 457.

* And by an Ordinance of both Houses, 24 *Martii* 1642. A Collection of Ordinances, p. 8.

After this the Lords and Commons in their (*b*) *Ordinances* of 14 *Martii* 1642. and 3 *August* 1643. for the speedy raising and levying money for the maintenance of the Army raised by the Parliament, and sundry other Ordinances, whiles the Earl of *Essex* was General, did declare; *That the* **only Causes** *for which they have raised and do continue an Army and forces, are the necessary defence of the true Protestant Religion, of themselves and the Parliament from violence and destruction, of this Kingdom from forein Invasion*, and bringing notorious offendors to condign punishment, the preservation of the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom, and the Kings person. And the (*i*.) Earl of *Essex* himself, in his *Proclamation* to prevent plundering, the 24. of *April* 1643. as he stiles himself, *Captain General of the Army, raised and imployed for the defence of the Protestant Religion, King, Parliament and Kingdom*; So he declares, *That this Army is raised for the defence of the King, Parliament, and Kingdom, the preservation of Gods true Religion, and the just rights and liberties of the Subjects from violence and oppression.*

h Exact Col. p. 932. An Appendix, p. 4.

i A Collect. p. 43. 44.

The year next following, when the Scotish forces were called and brought in for our *assistance* to joyn with the English

lish Army and Forces; the *self same Good Old Cause in every* branch *thereof was avowed* and espoused by them, and no other, as both *Houses of Parliament* and the *Scots* themselves declared to all the world in (k) *several printed Ordinances, Declarations, Remonstrances*, and in the *Solemn league and Covenant*, which the Officers and Souldiers of both Armies, as well as Members of the Parliaments of both *Kingdoms*, and all well-affected persons in *England, Scotland*, and *Ireland*, generally subscribed in a most chearfull, publick, and sacred manner: yea * *Oliver Cromwell* himself (both as a Member and Lieutenant *General*) being the 40th. *Member* who subscribed it.

(k) A Collection of Ordinances p. 305, 308, 313, 327, 363, 371, 416, 418, 420, &c. 424, 425 &c.

* A Collection. p. 426.

The command of the Parliaments forces and Army, being afterwards translated from the Earl of *Essex* to Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, by an (l) *Ordinance* of the *Lords* and *Commons* in Parliament, 15 *Febr.* 1644. *for raysing and maintaining the forces under his command*: both Houses ordained, *That there be forthwith raysed and armed for the defence of the King and Parliament, the true Protestant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom*, an *Army* consisting of 6600 Horse, 4000 Dragooners, and 14400 Foot, *under the immediate command of Sir* Thomas Fairfax *Knight, who is hereby constituted* Commander in chief *of all the forces raysed by this Ordinance, and shall from time to time be subject to such Orders and Directions as he shall receive from time to time from* both Houses of Parliament, *or from the Committee of both Kingdoms. And it is further provided by this* Ordinance, *that all Commanders and Officers that shall be imployed in this* Army, *and to be approved by both Houses of Parliament, and all the common Souldiers of this* Army *shall take the* National League and Covenant of both Kingdoms, *within* 20 *dayes after they be listed in the said Army; and that all such who shall refuse the said* Solemn League and Covenant, *shall upon such their refusal be displaced, and shall not be admitted into any Office or command in the said* Army, *untill they shall have taken the said* Solemn League and Covenant, *in such form as is there prescribed, and such their conformity approved of by both Houses of Parliament.* In the (m) *Ordinance* of the *Lords* and *Commons* assembled in *Parliament*, for the speedy raysing and impressing of men for the recruiting the forces under the command of Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, 27 *Febr.* 1644. They declared, *Forasmuch as the true Protestant Religion, the Laws and Liberties of the Subject were in danger to be subverted, Idolatry, and tyranny, like to be introduced by the force & power of several armies raysed by pretence of the King's*

(l) Collection p. 598, 606.

(m) A Collection p. 623.

Authority

authority, &c. Be it therefore *ordained by the* Lords *and* Commons *assembled in* Parliament, *That the Committees of the* Militia *for the City of* London, *the Deputy Lieutenants and Committees of* Parliament *in every County, City, or place within the Realm, shall from time to time, raise, levy, and impress such number of* Soldiers, Gunners, and Chyrurgions, **for the defence of the King, Parliament, and Kingdom** *as shall be appointed by both Houses of Parliament, the Committee of both Kingdoms, or by Sir* Thomas Fairfax. The like recitals of this Good Old Cause, and ends for which *this Army* under him and others was raised, are used in (*n*) other Ordinances. If this be not sufficient evidence, that Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, and the General *Counsel* of the *Officers* and *Army* under him took up Arms, and engaged only for this *Good Old Cause* and ends, and none else, thus declared by both Houses of *Parliament*, the very title of their several *Remonstrances*, and Declarations penned by themselves, printed by their own order in one Collection, *London* 1647. will resolve the world, themselves, and all other Souldiers since incorporated into the Army past all contradiction, being thus intituled, *A Declaration of the Engagements, Remonstrances, Representations, Proposals, Desires, and Resolutions from his Excellency Sir* Tho. Fairfax *and the* General Counsel of the Army, *for setling his Majesty in* **his just Rights, the Parliament in their just Priviledges, & the Subjects in their liberties and freedoms** Also Representations of the Grievances of the *Kingdom*, and *remedies propounded for removing the present pressures* (by Taxes and Excises) : *and the resolution of the Army, for the establishing of a firm and lasting peace, in* **Church and Kingdom.** This being the Title, sum of all their *Engagements, Remonstrances, Representations, Proposals, Resolutions*, it is superfluous to recite all the particular passages in them tending to these ends: only it will not be unseasonable to remind them of this one passage in their *Declaration* of *September* 9. 1647. concerning the *fundamental authority and government of the Kingdom*, p. 250. *Whereas a Member of the* General Counsel of this Army hath publickly declared and expressed himself, That **there is no visible authority in the Kingdom but the power & force of the Sword,** (the only *Good Old Cause* now cryed up by some in deeds if not in words) *we therefore the said* General Counsel, to testifie **how far our hearts and minds are from any design of setting up the power of the sword above or against the authority & government of the Kingdom,** *and our readiness* **to maintain & uphold the said Authority,** *have by a free Vote in the said* Counsel (*no man contradicting*) *judged the said* Member **to be expelled the said Councel** *which we hereby thought fit to publish as* **a clear manifestation of our dislike and disavowing such Principles or practises** (yet now revived, practised.)

This being the right State of the true *Good Old Cause*, & only ends for

(*n*) A Collection, p. 666, 667, 668, 669.

Nota.

for which all the Forces, Armies, under the *forenamed* or any other *Generals* since, were first raised, Commissioned, and hitherto maintained, continued, at the peoples vast expence, as both Houses of *Parliament*; the Kingdoms, Parliaments of *England*, *Scotland*, the *Generals*, *Officers*, and *Generall Counsils of the Army* themselves, have thus from time to time remonstrated in print to all the world, yea ratified *by the Protestation*, (o) *the sacred Vow and covenant*, *the National League and Covenant*, with other sacred *Oaths* and *Obligations*, obliging them faithfully, constantly, & sincerely to defend, *maintain & persevere therein all the dayes of their lives*; and *to promote the same to their power against all Oppositions, Lets & Impediments whatsoever according to their power, without suffering themselves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion or terror, to be divided, withdrawn or make defection from the same.* Which *Covenants*, *Vows*, *Protestations*, they professed they all made *in the presence of Almighty God, the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intention to perform the same.*

o *A* Collection p 203, 204, 205, 425, 426, 427.

If there be any other Cause now or lately espoused by any Members of *Parliament*, *Officers*, *Soldiers*, *English*, *Scotts Irish*, of what ever condition, sect, or party, inconsistent with, or *repugnant*, *destructive* to this *good old Cause*, or any branch thereof; it cannot without an apparent contradiction, absurdity, & falshood, be stiled, either **A Good** or **Old**, much lesse, **The Good Old Cause**, for which the Parliament, Army, Soldiers, kingdom, or any others adhering to them, first took up arms, and so long engaged in; but rather a **Bad**, a **New** unrighteous **Cause**, *or Gunpowder-plot*, originally contrived & secretly fomented by *Popish Emissaries*, *Iesuits*, & their seduced Disciples: or a *good cause* only as *War* is styled *good*, (p) *Bellum* quasi *Belluinum*, or *minime Bonum*: And *Old* only in these respects, (if conscientiously examined by any who shall either promote or engage in it) Because it proceeds originally from the ( ) **Old Serpent**, and **Dragon**, *the Devil*, (a seducer, lyar, *murderer from the beginning*; *the spirit who* (r) *now rules* **in the Children of Disobedience**, to engage them in this cause:) Because it suits with, and proceeds, issues from the (s) **Old man**, *which is corrupt according to the deceitfull lusts*, *which they have not yet crucified*, *nor put off with his deeds*, after all their *Fastings*, Humiliations, Prayers; Because it strongly relisheth of the (t) *Old leven of malice and wickedness*, which *they have not yet purged out*, *that they might be a new lump*, and is carried on *with a despitefull and revengefull heart*, (to *destroy*, whatever they formerly engaged to preserve as the true *good old cause*) *because of the* (u) **Old Hatred**: Because they perceive, that this new pretended *good Cause* they had set up and pursued, *now decayeth and waxeth* x **Old**, *and is ready to vanish away*; unless they put all their might, and the strength of the whole *Army* to support it Because, it is *the* (y) **old Way** *which wicked men*, (the old Gunpowder Traitors) *have formerly trodden*; *which were cut down out of time*; *whose foundation was overflown with a flood.* Or finally, because it was first set on foot and promoted, (z) *by certain men crept in unawares* (into the Army and

p Cicero, Calepine, Holioke, Tit. Bellum.
q Rev. 12. 9 c. 20. 2. Iohn 8. 44.
r Eph 2 1, 2, 3.
s Ephes. 4. 22. Rom. 6. 6. Col. 3. 9.
t 1 Cor. 5. 7, 8.
u Ezek. 25. 15.
x Heb. 8, 13.
y Iob 22. 15. 16.
z Iude 4.

Nation

Nation from Jesuitical Seminaries, & J. Leydons) who were before of Old ordained to this condemnatiō; ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ at lestwise in their works, (as Jude and Paul inform us by an unerring divine Spirit) (a) being abominable, Disobedient (to all their lawfull Superiors, and Parliaments themselves) and to every good work reprobate; Yea, (b) lovers of their own selves, covetous, proud, boasters, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankfull, unholy, without natural affection, Truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traytors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof, who have made these last dayes of ours perillous times, as St. Paul of old predicted. If then the false good OLD CAUSE lately and now cried up and prosecuted, upon serious Inquisition of any already engaged, or sollicited to ingage therein, shall upon c St. Bernards threefold inquiry, An liceat, an deceat, an expediat (which every Christian ought to make into every Action, before he undertake it) clearly appear to be the old, and The good Old Cause, only in these respects; which render it most desperately Wicked, Ill, and New, totally inconsistent with, professedly repugnant to, subversive of that real good Old Cause, wherein they first ingaged; here truly stated: Let all Officers, Soldiers of the Army, and others who have any remainders of Conscience, Ingenuity, Honesty, or indeared affections left in them to the Peace, Welfare, Safety, Settlement, fundamental Laws, Government, Parliaments, Liberties, Weal, Prosperity of our endangered, shaken, subverted Church, State, Parliaments; eternally renounce this Spurious Imposture, and Gibeonitish stratagem, inevitably to destroy them all: And remember the genuine, true, Good Old Cause here rightly stated, d from whence they have fallen; and repent, and do their first works, lest Christ come upon them quickly, and remove both them, their and our Candlestick out of its place, except they and we repent. And let all such Commanders, Officers of the Army, and their Confederates, who against their Commissions, Trusts, Duties, Covenants, Declarations, and Solemn Engagements, first mutinied the Army against the Houses, & Members of Parliament, for the defence of whose Persons, Privileges, & Session they were principally raised; and secluded, secured the Members, dissolved both Houses, and the Parliament it self, one after another: and have since bin kept and thrust out of the Parliament House, secured, dissolved themselves by their Fellow-Officers, and Soldiers directly or indirectly, several times; now seriously consider, How God hath scourged them with their own black rod, and president of Disobedience, and taken them in their own snare: That (e Adonibezeck like) as they have done to others, so God hath requited them, & f recompenced unto them the deed they did to us. That g with the same measure they meeted to others, it hath been, and shall be measured to them again. If any of them, or their Confederates, have an ear to hear, let them hear this further irreversible Decree of the immutable God, and Soveraign Judge of all the Earth Rev. 13 10. He that leadeth into Captivity, shall go into Captivity. He that killeth with the sword, shall be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and faith of the Saints. And if any engaged in the new fictitious, against the real true good old Cause, believe & tremble not at the consideration thereof, he hath neither the faith nor patience of the Saints, though he usurp and engross the name of a Saint to himself: & shall find it experimentally verified in conclusion; as many others have already done, who now like Fools repent too late, of what is past their skill and power to redress.

a Titus 1. 16.

b 2 Tim. 4. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

c De Consideratione, lib. 1.

d Rev. 2. 5.

e Judges 1. 6. 7.

f Ps. 137. 8.

g Luke 6. 38.

FINIS,